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 and the Plaintiff Classes  
 9

10 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
 11 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
 12

13 ULYSSES NAVARRO, individually, and  
 on behalf of all others similarly situated,  
 14

15 Plaintiff,

16 vs.

17 CLINIVATE, LLC, DON LOMAS, and  
 STEVE TERUI,  
 18

19 Defendants.  
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**Case No. 2:22-cv-05177-FWS-PVC**

**CLASS ACTION**

**FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR  
 DAMAGES, INJUNCTIVE AND  
 EQUITABLE RELIEF FOR:**

- 1. NEGLIGENCE;**
- 2. CONFIDENTIALITY OF MEDICAL  
 INFORMATION ACT (CAL. CIV. CODE  
 §56);**
- 3. BREACH OF IMPLIED CONTRACT;**
- 4. UNFAIR BUSINESS PRACTICES;**

**[JURY TRIAL DEMANDED]**

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Representative Plaintiff alleges as follows:

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. Representative Plaintiff Ulysses Navarro (“Representative Plaintiff”) brings this class action against Defendants Clinivate, LLC (“Clinivate”), Don Lomas (“Lomas”), and Steve Terui (“Terui”) (collectively “Defendants”) for their failure to properly secure and safeguard Representative Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ personally identifiable information stored within Defendant Clinivate’s information network, including, without limitation, medical information, such as information regarding medical treatments, provider names, dates of service, diagnosis/procedure information, (these types of information, *inter alia*, being hereafter referred to, collectively, as “personal health information” or “PHI”),<sup>1</sup> account and/or record numbers, names, and dates of birth (these latter types of information, *inter alia*, being hereafter referred to, collectively, as “personally identifiable information” or “PII”).<sup>2</sup>

2. With this action, Representative Plaintiff seeks to hold Defendants responsible for the harms they caused and will continue to cause Representative Plaintiff and the countless other similarly situated persons in the massive and preventable cyberattack beginning as early as March 12, 2022 and discovered by Defendant Clinivate on May 25, 2022, by which cybercriminals infiltrated Defendants’ inadequately protected network servers and accessed highly sensitive

<sup>1</sup> Personal health information (“PHI”) is a category of information that refers to an individual’s medical records and history, which is protected under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. *Inter alia*, PHI includes test results, procedure descriptions, diagnoses, personal or family medical histories and data points applied to a set of demographic information for a particular patient.

<sup>2</sup> Personally identifiable information (“PII”) generally incorporates information that can be used to distinguish or trace an individual’s identity, either alone or when combined with other personal or identifying information. 2 C.F.R. § 200.79. At a minimum, it includes all information that on its face expressly identifies an individual. PII also is generally defined to include certain identifiers that do not on its face name an individual, but that are considered to be particularly sensitive and/or valuable if in the wrong hands (for example, Social Security numbers, passport numbers, driver’s license numbers, financial account numbers).

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1 PHI/PII and financial information which was being kept unprotected (the “Data  
2 Breach”).

3 3. Representative Plaintiff further seeks to hold Defendants responsible  
4 for not ensuring that the PHI/PII was maintained in a manner consistent with  
5 industry, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996  
6 (“HIPPA”) Privacy Rule (45 CFR, Parts 160 and 164(A) and (E)), the HIPPA  
7 Security Rule (45 CFR, Parts 160 and 164(A) and (C)), and other relevant standards.

8 4. While Defendants claim to have discovered the breach as early as May  
9 25, 2022, Defendants did not begin informing victims of the Data Breach until July  
10 2022. Indeed, Representative Plaintiff and Class Members were wholly unaware of  
11 the Data Breach until they received letters from Defendants informing them of it. In  
12 particular, the letter Representative Plaintiff received was dated July 22, 2022.

13 5. Defendants acquired, collected, and stored Representative Plaintiff’s  
14 and Class Members’ PHI/PII and/or financial information in their ordinary course of  
15 business. Therefore, at all relevant times, Defendants knew, or should have known,  
16 that Representative Plaintiff and Class Members would use Defendants’ network to  
17 store and/or share sensitive data, including highly confidential PHI/PII.

18 6. HIPAA establishes national minimum standards for the protection of  
19 individuals’ medical records and other personal health information. HIPAA,  
20 generally, applies to health plans/insurers, health care clearinghouses, and those  
21 health care providers that conduct certain health care transactions electronically, and  
22 sets minimum standards for Defendants’ maintenance of Representative Plaintiff’s  
23 and Class Members’ PHI/PII. More specifically, HIPAA requires appropriate  
24 safeguards be maintained by organizations such as Clinivate to protect the privacy  
25 of personal health information and sets limits and conditions on the uses and  
26 disclosures that may be made of such information without customer/patient  
27 authorization. HIPAA also establishes a series of rights over Representative  
28

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1 Plaintiff's and Class Members' PHI/PII, including rights to examine and obtain  
2 copies of their health records, and to request corrections thereto.

3 7. Additionally, the HIPAA Security Rule establishes national standards  
4 to protect individuals' electronic personal health information that is created,  
5 received, used, or maintained by a covered entity. The HIPAA Security Rule  
6 requires appropriate administrative, physical, and technical safeguards to ensure the  
7 confidentiality, integrity, and security of electronic protected health information.

8 8. By obtaining, collecting, using, and deriving a benefit from  
9 Representative Plaintiff's and Class Members' PHI/PII, Defendants assumed legal  
10 and equitable duties to those individuals. These duties arise from HIPAA and other  
11 state and federal statutes and regulations as well as common law principles.  
12 Representative Plaintiff does not bring claims in this action for direct violations of  
13 HIPAA, but charges Defendants with various legal violations merely predicated  
14 upon the duties set forth in HIPAA.

15 9. Defendants disregarded the rights of Representative Plaintiff and Class  
16 Members by intentionally, willfully, recklessly, or negligently failing to take and  
17 implement adequate and reasonable measures to ensure that Representative  
18 Plaintiff's and Class Members' PHI/PII was safeguarded, failing to take available  
19 steps to prevent an unauthorized disclosure of data, and failing to follow applicable,  
20 required, and appropriate protocols, policies, and procedures regarding the  
21 encryption of data, even for internal use. As a result, the PHI/PII of Representative  
22 Plaintiff and Class Members was compromised through disclosure to an unknown  
23 and unauthorized third party—an undoubtedly nefarious third party that seeks to  
24 profit off this disclosure by defrauding Representative Plaintiff and Class Members  
25 in the future. Representative Plaintiff and Class Members have a continuing interest  
26 in ensuring that their information is and remains safe, and they are entitled to  
27 injunctive and other equitable relief.  
28

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## **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

10. Jurisdiction is proper in this Court under 28 U.S.C. §1332 (diversity jurisdiction). Specifically, this Court has subject matter and diversity jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d) because this is a class action where the amount in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$5 million, exclusive of interest and costs, there are more than 100 members in the proposed class, and at least one other Class Member is a citizen of a state different from Defendants.

11. Supplemental jurisdiction to adjudicate issues pertaining to California state law is proper in this Court under 28 U.S.C. §1367.

12. Defendants routinely conduct business in California, have sufficient minimum contacts in California, and have intentionally availed themselves of this jurisdiction by marketing and selling products and services, and by accepting and processing payments for those products and services within California.

13. Venue is proper in this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because the events that gave rise to Representative Plaintiff's claims took place within the Central District of California, and Defendants do business in this Judicial District.

## **PLAINTIFF**

14. Representative Plaintiff is an adult individual and, at all relevant times herein, a resident of the State of California. Representative Plaintiff is a victim of the Data Breach.

15. Defendants received highly sensitive personal, medical, and financial information from Representative Plaintiff in connection with his receipt of medical care and related medical and/or behavioral health services from one of Defendants' clients, Special Service for Groups, a non-profit health and human service organization for which Clinivate is the electronic health records vendor.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> See Defendants' Notice of Data Breach letter, dated July 22, 2022; ssg.org.

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1 16. Representative Plaintiff received—and was a “consumer” for purposes  
2 of obtaining—medical care from Defendants within the State of California.

3 17. At all times herein relevant, Representative Plaintiff is and was a  
4 member of each of the Classes.

5 18. As required in order to obtain services from Defendants, Representative  
6 Plaintiff provided Defendants with highly sensitive personal, financial, health, and  
7 insurance information.

8 19. Representative Plaintiff’s PHI/PII was exposed in the Data Breach  
9 because Defendants stored and/or shared Representative Plaintiff’s PHI/PII and  
10 financial information. His PHI/PII and financial information was within the  
11 possession and control of Defendants at the time of the Data Breach.

12 20. Representative Plaintiff received a letter from Defendant, dated July 22,  
13 2022, informing him that his PHI/PII and/or financial information was involved in  
14 the Data Breach (the “Notice”).

15 21. As a result, Representative Plaintiff spent time dealing with the  
16 consequences of the Data Breach, which included and continues to include, time  
17 spent verifying the legitimacy and impact of the Data Breach, exploring credit  
18 monitoring and identity theft insurance options, self-monitoring his accounts, and  
19 seeking legal counsel regarding his options for remedying and/or mitigating the  
20 effects of the Data Breach. This time has been lost forever and cannot be recaptured.

21 22. Representative Plaintiff suffered actual injury in the form of damages  
22 to and diminution in the value of his PHI/PII—a form of intangible property that he  
23 entrusted to Defendant, which was compromised in and as a result of the Data  
24 Breach.

25 23. Representative Plaintiff suffered lost time, annoyance, interference, and  
26 inconvenience as a result of the Data Breach and has anxiety and increased concerns  
27 for the loss of his privacy, as well as anxiety over the impact of cybercriminals  
28 accessing and using his PHI/PII and/or financial information.

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24. Representative Plaintiff has suffered imminent and impending injury arising from the substantially increased risk of fraud, identity theft, and misuse resulting from his PHI/PII and financial information, in combination with his name, being placed in the hands of unauthorized third parties/criminals.

25. Representative Plaintiff has a continuing interest in ensuring that his PHI/PII and financial information, which, upon information and belief, remains backed up in Defendants' possession, is protected and safeguarded from future breaches.

### **DEFENDANT**

26. Clinivate is a California corporation with a principal place of business located at 99 South. Lake Avenue, Suite 17 Pasadena, California 91101.

27. Clinivate creates software solutions for behavioral health providers, clinicians, and managers. Clinivate is the electronic health records vendor for one such health provider, Special Service for Groups,<sup>4</sup> a non-profit health and human service organization.<sup>5</sup> Recognizing the need for software necessary to today's behavioral health agencies, Clinivate is "a company dedicated to creating easy-to-use, flexible, yet powerful tools for the documentation, tracking, and management of behavioral healthcare services."<sup>6</sup>

28. Defendants Don Lomas and Steve Terui are the two founders of Clinivate, LLC.<sup>7</sup> Upon information and belief, Plaintiff alleges that Lomas and Terui are the owners of Clinivate, LLC (i.e., the shareholders).

29. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff alleges that Defendant Clinivate is/was inadequately capitalized and, therefore, its owners are liable for its debts and liabilities in their individual capacities.

<sup>4</sup> See Defendants' Notice of Data Breach letter, dated July 22, 2022.

<sup>5</sup> See Ssg.org

<sup>6</sup> See [https://clinivate.com/?page\\_id=55](https://clinivate.com/?page_id=55)

<sup>7</sup> See [https://clinivate.com/clinivate-dot-com/?page\\_id=55](https://clinivate.com/clinivate-dot-com/?page_id=55) (last accessed November 16, 2022).



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1 30. The true names and capacities of persons or entities, whether  
2 individual, corporate, associate, or otherwise, who may be responsible for some of  
3 the claims alleged here are currently unknown to Representative Plaintiff.  
4 Representative Plaintiff will seek leave of court to amend this Complaint to reflect  
5 the true names and capacities of such other responsible parties when their identities  
6 become known.

7  
8 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

9 31. Representative Plaintiff brings this action pursuant to the provisions of  
10 Rules 23(a), (b)(2), and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, on behalf of  
11 himself and the following classes/subclass(es) (collectively, the “Class”):

12 **Nationwide Class:**

13 “All individuals within the United States of America whose  
14 PHI/PII and/or financial information was exposed to  
15 unauthorized third parties as a result of the data breach occurring  
16 between March 12, 2022 and March 21, 2022.”

17 **California Subclass:**

18 “All individuals within the State of California whose PII/PHI  
19 was exposed to unauthorized third parties as a result of the data  
20 breach occurring between March 12, 2022 and March 21, 2022.”

21 32. Excluded from the Classes are the following individuals and/or entities:  
22 Clinivate and Clinivate’s parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, and directors, and  
23 any entity in which Defendants have a controlling interest; all individuals who make  
24 a timely election to be excluded from this proceeding using the correct protocol for  
25 opting out; any and all federal, state, or local governments, including but not limited  
26 to their departments, agencies, divisions, bureaus, boards, sections, groups, counsels,  
27 and/or subdivisions; and all judges assigned to hear any aspect of this litigation, as  
28 well as their immediate family members.

33. Also, in the alternative, Representative Plaintiff requests additional  
Subclasses as necessary based on the types of PII/PHI that were compromised.



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1 34. Representative Plaintiff reserves the right to amend the above definition  
2 or to propose subclasses in subsequent pleadings and motions for class certification.

3 35. This action has been brought and may properly be maintained as a class  
4 action under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure Rule 23 because there is a well-defined  
5 community of interest in the litigation and membership in the proposed classes is  
6 easily ascertainable.

7 a. Numerosity: A class action is the only available method for the  
8 fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. The members  
9 of the Plaintiff Classes are so numerous that joinder of all  
10 members is impractical, if not impossible. Representative  
11 Plaintiff is informed and believes and, on that basis, alleges that  
12 the total number of Class Members is in the hundreds of  
13 thousands of individuals. Membership in the classes will be  
14 determined by analysis of Defendants' records.

15 b. Commonality: Representative Plaintiff and the Class Members  
16 share a community of interests in that there are numerous  
17 common questions and issues of fact and law which predominate  
18 over any questions and issues solely affecting individual  
19 members, including, but not necessarily limited to:

20 1) Whether Defendants have a legal duty to Representative  
21 Plaintiff and the Classes to exercise due care in collecting,  
22 storing, using, and/or safeguarding their PII/PHI;

23 2) Whether Defendants knew or should have known of the  
24 susceptibility of their data security systems to a data breach;

25 3) Whether Defendants' security procedures and practices to  
26 protect their systems were reasonable in light of the measures  
27 recommended by data security experts;

28 4) Whether Defendants' failure to implement adequate data  
security measures allowed the Data Breach to occur;

5) Whether Defendants failed to comply with their own  
policies and applicable laws, regulations, and industry standards  
relating to data security;

6) Whether Defendants adequately, promptly, and accurately  
informed Representative Plaintiff and Class Members that their  
PII/PHI had been compromised;

7) How and when Defendants actually learned of the Data  
Breach;

8) Whether Defendants' conduct, including their failure to  
act, resulted in or was the proximate cause of the breach of its

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1 systems, resulting in the loss of the PII/PHI of Representative  
2 Plaintiff and Class Members;

3 9) Whether Defendants adequately addressed and fixed the  
4 vulnerabilities which permitted the Data Breach to occur;

5 10) Whether Defendants engaged in unfair, unlawful, or  
6 deceptive practices by failing to safeguard the PII/PHI of  
7 Representative Plaintiff and Class Members;

8 11) Whether Representative Plaintiff and Class Members are  
9 entitled to actual and/or statutory damages and/or whether  
10 injunctive, corrective, and/or declaratory relief and/or an  
11 accounting is/are appropriate as a result of Defendants' wrongful  
12 conduct;

13 12) Whether Representative Plaintiff and Class Members are  
14 entitled to restitution as a result of Defendants' wrongful  
15 conduct.

16 c. Typicality: Representative Plaintiff's claims are typical of the  
17 claims of the Plaintiff Classes. Representative Plaintiff and all  
18 members of the Plaintiff Classes sustained damages arising out  
19 of and caused by Defendants' common course of conduct in  
20 violation of law, as alleged herein.

21 d. Adequacy of Representation: Representative Plaintiff in this  
22 class action is an adequate representative of each of the Plaintiff  
23 Classes in that Representative Plaintiff has the same interest in  
24 the litigation of this case as the Class Members, is committed to  
25 vigorous prosecution of this case and has retained competent  
26 counsel who are experienced in conducting litigation of this  
27 nature. Representative Plaintiff is not subject to any individual  
28 defenses unique from those conceivably applicable to other Class  
Members or the classes in their entirety. Representative Plaintiff  
anticipates no management difficulties in this litigation.

e. Superiority of Class Action: Since the damages suffered by  
individual Class Members, while not inconsequential, may be  
relatively small, the expense and burden of individual litigation  
by each member makes or may make it impractical for members  
of the Plaintiff Classes to seek redress individually for the  
wrongful conduct alleged herein. Should separate actions be  
brought or be required to be brought, by each individual member  
of the Plaintiff classes, the resulting multiplicity of lawsuits  
would cause undue hardship and expense for the Court and the  
litigants. The prosecution of separate actions would also create a  
risk of inconsistent rulings which might be dispositive of the  
interests of other Class Members who are not parties to the  
adjudications and/or may substantially impede their ability to  
adequately protect their interests.

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1 36. This class action is also appropriate for certification because  
2 Defendants have acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to Class  
3 Members, thereby requiring the Court's imposition of uniform relief to ensure  
4 compatible standards of conduct toward the Class Members and making final  
5 injunctive relief appropriate with respect to the Class(es) in its/their entirety.  
6 Defendants' policies and practices challenged herein apply to and affect Class  
7 Members uniformly and Representative Plaintiff's challenge of these policies and  
8 practices hinges on Defendants' conduct with respect to the Class(es) in their  
9 entirety, not on facts or law applicable only to Representative Plaintiff.

10 37. Unless a Class-wide injunction is issued, Defendants may continue in  
11 their failure to properly secure the PHI/PII and/or financial information of Class  
12 Members, and Defendants may continue to act unlawfully as set forth in this  
13 Complaint.

14 38. Further, Defendants have acted or refused to act on grounds generally  
15 applicable to the Classes and, accordingly, final injunctive or corresponding  
16 declaratory relief with regard to the Class Members as a whole is appropriate under  
17 Rule 23(b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

## 18 19 **COMMON FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

### 20 **The Cyberattack**

21 39. In the course of the Data Breach, one or more unauthorized third parties  
22 accessed Class Members' sensitive data including, but not limited to, medical  
23 information, account or record information, names, and dates of birth.  
24 Representative Plaintiff was among the individuals whose data was accessed in the  
25 Data Breach.

26 40. Representative Plaintiff was provided the information detailed above  
27 upon his receipt of a letter from Defendant, dated July 22, 2022. He was not aware  
28 of the Data Breach until receiving that letter.

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**Defendants' Failed Response to the Breach**

41. Not until roughly nine months after they claim to have discovered the Data Breach did Defendants begin sending the Notice to persons whose PHI/PII and/or financial information Defendants confirmed was potentially compromised as a result of the Data Breach. The Notice provided basic details of the Data Breach and Defendant's recommended next steps.

42. The Notice included, *inter alia*, claims that Defendant Clinivate had "identified unusual activity on certain systems within its network" on September 26, 2021, had taken steps to respond, and was continuing to investigate. It claimed that Defendants took measures to contain the attack and engaged outside cyber security experts to aid its investigation.

43. Upon information and belief, the unauthorized third-party cybercriminals gained access to Representative Plaintiff's and Class Members' PHI/PII and financial information with the intent of engaging in misuse of the PHI/PII and financial information, including marketing and selling Representative Plaintiff's and Class Members' PHI/PII.

44. Defendants had and continue to have obligations created by HIPAA, the California Confidentiality of Medical Information Act ("CMIA"), reasonable industry standards, common law, state statutory law, and their own assurances and representations to keep Representative Plaintiff's and Class Members' PHI/PII confidential and to protect such PHI/PII from unauthorized access.

45. Representative Plaintiff and Class Members were required to provide their PHI/PII and financial information to Defendants with the reasonable expectation and mutual understanding that Defendants would comply with their obligations to keep such information confidential and secure from unauthorized access.

46. Despite this, Representative Plaintiff and Class Members remain, even today, in the dark regarding what particular data was stolen, the particular malware

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1 used, and what steps are being taken, if any, to secure their PHI/PII and financial  
2 information going forward. Representative Plaintiff and Class Members are left to  
3 speculate as to the full impact of the Data Breach and how exactly Defendants intend  
4 to enhance their information security systems and monitoring capabilities so as to  
5 prevent further breaches.

6 47. Representative Plaintiff's and Class Members' PHI/PII and financial  
7 information may end up for sale on the dark web, or simply fall into the hands of  
8 companies that will use the detailed PHI/PII and financial information for targeted  
9 marketing without the approval of Representative Plaintiff and/or Class Members.  
10 Either way, unauthorized individuals can now easily access the PHI/PII and/or  
11 financial information of Representative Plaintiff and Class Members.

12  
13 **Defendants Collected/Stored Class Members' PHI/PII**

14 48. Defendants acquired, collected, and stored, and assured reasonable  
15 security over, Representative Plaintiff's and Class Members' PHI/PII and financial  
16 information.

17 49. As a condition of their relationships with Representative Plaintiff and  
18 Class Members, Defendants required that Representative Plaintiff and Class  
19 Members entrust Defendants with highly sensitive and confidential PHI/PII and  
20 financial information. Defendants, in turn, stored that information on their system  
21 that was ultimately affected by the Data Breach.

22 50. By obtaining, collecting, and storing Representative Plaintiff's and  
23 Class Members' PHI/PII and financial information, Defendants assumed legal and  
24 equitable duties and knew, or should have known, that they were thereafter  
25 responsible for protecting Representative Plaintiff's and Class Members' PHI/PII  
26 and financial information from unauthorized disclosure.

27 51. Representative Plaintiff and Class Members have taken reasonable  
28 steps to maintain the confidentiality of their PHI/PII and financial information.

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1 Representative Plaintiff and Class Members relied on Defendants to keep their  
2 PHI/PII and financial information confidential and securely maintained, to use this  
3 information for business and healthcare purposes only, and to make only authorized  
4 disclosures of this information.

5 52. Defendants could have prevented the Data Breach by properly securing  
6 and encrypting and/or more securely encrypting their servers generally, as well as  
7 Representative Plaintiff's and Class Members' PHI/PII and financial information.

8 53. Defendants' negligence in safeguarding Representative Plaintiff's and  
9 Class Members' PHI/PII and financial information is exacerbated by repeated  
10 warnings and alerts directed to protecting and securing sensitive data, as evidenced  
11 by the trending data breach attacks in recent years.

12 54. The healthcare industry in particular has experienced a large number of  
13 high-profile cyberattacks even in just the short period preceding the filing of this  
14 Complaint and cyberattacks, generally, have become increasingly more common.  
15 More healthcare data breaches were reported in 2020 than in any other year, showing  
16 a 25% increase.<sup>8</sup> Additionally, according to the HIPAA Journal, the largest  
17 healthcare data breaches have been reported beginning in April 2021.<sup>9</sup>

18 55. For example, Universal Health Services experienced a cyberattack on  
19 September 29, 2020, that appears similar to the attack on Defendant. As a result of  
20 this attack, Universal Health Services suffered a four-week outage of its systems  
21 which caused as much as \$67 million in recovery costs and lost revenue.<sup>10</sup> Similarly,  
22 in 2021, Scripps Health suffered a cyberattack, an event which effectively shut down  
23 critical health care services for a month and left numerous patients unable to speak  
24

25  
26 <sup>8</sup> <https://www.hipaajournal.com/2020-healthcare-data-breach-report-us/> (last  
accessed November 5, 2021).

27 <sup>9</sup> <https://www.hipaajournal.com/april-2021-healthcare-data-breach-report/> (last  
accessed November 5, 2021).

28 <sup>10</sup> [https://ir.uhsinc.com/news-releases/news-release-details/universal-health-  
services-inc-reports-2020-fourth-quarter-and](https://ir.uhsinc.com/news-releases/news-release-details/universal-health-services-inc-reports-2020-fourth-quarter-and) (last accessed November 5, 2021).



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1 to their physicians or access vital medical and prescription records.<sup>11</sup> A few months  
2 later, University of San Diego Health suffered a similar attack.<sup>12</sup>

3 56. Due to the high-profile nature of these breaches, and other breaches of  
4 its kind, Defendants were and/or certainly should have been on notice and aware of  
5 such attacks occurring in the healthcare industry and, therefore, should have  
6 assumed and adequately performed the duty of preparing for such an imminent  
7 attack.

8 57. Yet, despite the prevalence of public announcements of data breach and  
9 data security compromises, Defendants failed to take appropriate steps to protect  
10 Representative Plaintiff's and Class Members' PHI/PII and financial information  
11 from being compromised.

12  
13 **Defendants Had an Obligation to Protect the Stolen Information**

14 58. Defendants owe an implied duty to Plaintiffs and Class Members' to  
15 adequately secure Representative Plaintiff's and Class Members' sensitive data from  
16 breach under statutory and common law. Under HIPAA, covered entities and  
17 business associates have an affirmative duty to keep patients' Protected Health  
18 Information private. As a covered entity, Defendants have a statutory duty under  
19 HIPAA, and other federal and state statutes, to safeguard Representative Plaintiff's  
20 and Class Members' data. Moreover, Representative Plaintiff and Class Members  
21 surrendered their highly sensitive personal data to Defendants under the implied  
22 condition that Defendants would keep it private and secure. Accordingly,  
23 Defendants also have an implied duty to safeguard their data, independent of any  
24 statute.

25  
26 <sup>11</sup> <https://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/scripps-health-employees-regaining-access-to-internal-systems-hit-by-cyberattack-2/2619540/> (last accessed November 5, 2021).

27 <sup>12</sup> <https://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/data-breach-at-uc-san-diego-health-some-employee-email-accounts-impacted/2670302/> (last accessed November 5, 2021).



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1 59. Because Clinivate is covered by HIPAA (45 C.F.R. § 160.102), it is  
2 required to comply with the HIPAA Privacy Rule, 45 C.F.R. Part 160 and Part 164,  
3 Subparts A and E (“Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health  
4 Information”), and Security Rule (“Security Standards for the Protection of  
5 Electronic Protected Health Information”), 45 C.F.R. Part 160 and Part 164,  
6 Subparts A and C.

7 60. HIPAA’s Privacy Rule or Standards for Privacy of Individually  
8 Identifiable Health Information establishes national standards for the protection of  
9 health information.

10 61. HIPAA’s Privacy Rule or Security Standards for the Protection of  
11 Electronic Protected Health Information establishes a national set of security  
12 standards for protecting health information that is kept or transferred in electronic  
13 form.

14 62. HIPAA requires Clinivate to “comply with the applicable standards,  
15 implementation specifications, and requirements” of HIPAA “with respect to  
16 electronic protected health information.” 45 C.F.R. § 164.302.

17 63. “Electronic protected health information” is “individually identifiable  
18 health information ... that is (i) transmitted by electronic media; maintained in  
19 electronic media.” 45 C.F.R. § 160.103.

20 64. HIPAA’s Security Rule requires Clinivate to do the following:

- 21 a. Ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of all electronic  
22 protected health information the covered entity or business associate  
creates, receives, maintains, or transmits;
- 23 b. Protect against any reasonably anticipated threats or hazards to the  
24 security or integrity of such information;
- 25 c. Protect against any reasonably anticipated uses or disclosures of  
such information that are not permitted; and
- 26 d. Ensure compliance by its workforce.
- 27
- 28

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1           65. HIPAA also requires Clinivate to “review and modify the security  
2 measures implemented ... as needed to continue provision of reasonable and  
3 appropriate protection of electronic protected health information” under 45 C.F.R. §  
4 164.306(e), and to “[i]mplement technical policies and procedures for electronic  
5 information systems that maintain electronic protected health information to allow  
6 access only to those persons or software programs that have been granted access  
7 rights.” 45 C.F.R. § 164.312(a)(1).

8           66. Moreover, the HIPAA Breach Notification Rule, 45 C.F.R. §§ 164.400-  
9 414, requires Clinivate to provide notice of the Data Breach to each affected  
10 individual “without unreasonable delay and in no case later than 60 days following  
11 discovery of the breach.”

12           67. Defendants were also prohibited by the Federal Trade Commission Act  
13 (the “FTC Act”) (15 U.S.C. § 45) from engaging in “unfair or deceptive acts or  
14 practices in or affecting commerce.” The Federal Trade Commission (the “FTC”)  
15 has concluded that a company’s failure to maintain reasonable and appropriate data  
16 security for consumers’ sensitive personal information is an “unfair practice” in  
17 violation of the FTC Act. See, e.g., *FTC v. Wyndham Worldwide Corp.*, 799 F.3d  
18 236 (3d Cir. 2015).

19           68. In addition to their obligations under federal and state laws, Defendants  
20 owed a duty to Representative Plaintiff and Class Members to exercise reasonable  
21 care in obtaining, retaining, securing, safeguarding, deleting, and protecting the  
22 PHI/PII and financial information in Defendants’ possession from being  
23 compromised, lost, stolen, accessed, and/or misused by unauthorized persons.  
24 Defendants owed a duty to Representative Plaintiff and Class Members to provide  
25 reasonable security, including consistency with industry standards and requirements,  
26 and to ensure that their computer systems, networks, and protocols adequately  
27 protected the PHI/PII and financial information of Representative Plaintiff and Class  
28 Members.

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69. Defendants owed a duty to Representative Plaintiff and Class Members to design, maintain, and test their computer systems, servers, and networks to ensure that the PHI/PII and financial information in their possession was adequately secured and protected.

70. Defendants owed a duty to Representative Plaintiff and Class Members to create and implement reasonable data security practices and procedures to protect the PHI/PII and financial information in their possession, including not sharing information with other entities who maintained sub-standard data security systems.

71. Defendants owed a duty to Representative Plaintiff and Class Members to implement processes that would immediately detect a breach on their data security systems in a timely manner.

72. Defendants owed a duty to Representative Plaintiff and Class Members to act upon data security warnings and alerts in a timely fashion.

73. Defendants owed a duty to Representative Plaintiff and Class Members to disclose if their computer systems and data security practices were inadequate to safeguard individuals' PHI/PII and/or financial information from theft because such an inadequacy would be a material fact in the decision to entrust this PHI/PII and/or financial information to Defendants.

74. Defendants owed a duty of care to Representative Plaintiff and Class Members because they were foreseeable and probable victims of any inadequate data security practices.

75. Defendants owed a duty to Representative Plaintiff and Class Members to encrypt and/or more reliably encrypt Representative Plaintiff's and Class Members' PHI/PII and financial information and monitor user behavior and activity in order to identify possible threats.

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## **Value of the Relevant Sensitive Information**

76. While the greater efficiency of electronic health records translates to cost savings for providers, it also comes with the risk of privacy breaches. These electronic health records contain a plethora of sensitive information (e.g., patient data, patient diagnosis, lab results, RX's, treatment plans, etc.) that is valuable to cyber criminals. One patient's complete record can be sold for hundreds of dollars on the dark web. As such, PHI/PII and financial information are valuable commodities for which a "cyber black market" exists in which criminals openly post stolen payment card numbers, Social Security numbers, and other personal information on a number of underground internet websites. Unsurprisingly, the healthcare industry is at high risk for and acutely affected by cyberattacks.

77. The high value of PHI/PII and financial information to criminals is further evidenced by the prices they will pay through the dark web. Numerous sources cite dark web pricing for stolen identity credentials. For example, personal information can be sold at a price ranging from \$40 to \$200, and bank details have a price range of \$50 to \$200.<sup>13</sup> Experian reports that a stolen credit or debit card number can sell for \$5 to \$110 on the dark web.<sup>14</sup> Criminals can also purchase access to entire company data breaches from \$999 to \$4,995.<sup>15</sup>

78. Between 2005 and 2019, at least 249 million people were affected by health care data breaches.<sup>16</sup> Indeed, during 2019 alone, over 41 million healthcare

<sup>13</sup> *Your personal data is for sale on the dark web. Here's how much it costs*, Digital Trends, Oct. 16, 2019, available at:

<https://www.digitaltrends.com/computing/personal-data-sold-on-the-dark-web-how-much-it-costs/> (last accessed July 28, 2021).

<sup>14</sup> *Here's How Much Your Personal Information Is Selling for on the Dark Web*, Experian, Dec. 6, 2017, available at: <https://www.experian.com/blogs/ask-experian/heres-how-much-your-personal-information-is-selling-for-on-the-dark-web/> (last accessed November 5, 2021).

<sup>15</sup> *In the Dark*, VPNOverview, 2019, available at: <https://vpnoverview.com/privacy/anonymous-browsing/in-the-dark/> (last accessed January 21, 2022).

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7349636/#B5-healthcare-08-00133> (last accessed January 21, 2022).

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1 records were exposed, stolen, or unlawfully disclosed in 505 data breaches.<sup>17</sup> In  
2 short, these sorts of data breaches are increasingly common, especially among  
3 healthcare systems, which account for 30.03% of overall health data breaches,  
4 according to cybersecurity firm Tenable.<sup>18</sup>

5 79. These criminal activities have and will result in devastating financial  
6 and personal losses to Representative Plaintiff and Class Members. For example, it  
7 is believed that certain PHI/PII compromised in the 2017 Experian data breach was  
8 being used, three years later, by identity thieves to apply for COVID-19-related  
9 benefits in the state of Oklahoma. Such fraud will be an omnipresent threat for  
10 Representative Plaintiff and Class Members for the rest of their lives. They will need  
11 to remain constantly vigilant.

12 80. The FTC defines identity theft as “a fraud committed or attempted using  
13 the identifying information of another person without authority.” The FTC describes  
14 “identifying information” as “any name or number that may be used, alone or in  
15 conjunction with any other information, to identify a specific person,” including,  
16 among other things, “[n]ame, Social Security number, date of birth, official State or  
17 government issued driver’s license or identification number, alien registration  
18 number, government passport number, employer or taxpayer identification number.”

19 81. Identity thieves can use PHI/PII and financial information, such as that  
20 of Representative Plaintiff and Class Members which Defendants failed to keep  
21 secure, to perpetrate a variety of crimes that harm victims. For instance, identity  
22 thieves may commit various types of government fraud such as immigration fraud,  
23 obtaining a driver’s license or identification card in the victim’s name but with  
24 another’s picture, using the victim’s information to obtain government benefits, or  
25

26  
27 <sup>17</sup> <https://www.hipaajournal.com/december-2019-healthcare-data-breach-report/>  
(last accessed January 21, 2022).

28 <sup>18</sup> [https://www.tenable.com/blog/healthcare-security-ransomware-plays-a-](https://www.tenable.com/blog/healthcare-security-ransomware-plays-a-prominent-role-in-covid-19-era-breaches)  
[prominent-role-in-covid-19-era-breaches](https://www.tenable.com/blog/healthcare-security-ransomware-plays-a-prominent-role-in-covid-19-era-breaches) (last accessed January 21, 2022).

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1 filing a fraudulent tax return using the victim's information to obtain a fraudulent  
2 refund.

3 82. The ramifications of Defendants' failure to keep secure Representative  
4 Plaintiff's and Class Members' PHI/PII and financial information are long lasting  
5 and severe. Once PHI/PII and financial information is stolen, particularly  
6 identification numbers, fraudulent use of that information and damage to victims  
7 may continue for years. Indeed, the PHI/PII and/or financial information of  
8 Representative Plaintiff and Class Members was taken by hackers to engage in  
9 identity theft or to sell it to other criminals who will purchase the PHI/PII and/or  
10 financial information for that purpose. The fraudulent activity resulting from the  
11 Data Breach may not come to light for years.

12 83. There may be a time lag between when harm occurs versus when it is  
13 discovered, and also between when PHI/PII and/or financial information is stolen  
14 and when it is used. According to the U.S. Government Accountability Office  
15 ("GAO"), which conducted a study regarding data breaches:

16 [L]aw enforcement officials told us that in some cases, stolen data may  
17 be held for up to a year or more before being used to commit identity  
18 theft. Further, once stolen data have been sold or posted on the Web,  
19 fraudulent use of that information may continue for years. As a result,  
studies that attempt to measure the harm resulting from data breaches  
cannot necessarily rule out all future harm.<sup>19</sup>

20 84. The harm to Representative Plaintiff and Class Members is especially  
21 acute given the nature of the leaked data. Medical identity theft is one of the most  
22 common, most expensive, and most difficult-to-prevent forms of identity theft.  
23 According to Kaiser Health News, "medical-related identity theft accounted for 43  
24 percent of all identity thefts reported in the United States in 2013," which is more  
25  
26  
27

28 <sup>19</sup> *Report to Congressional Requesters*, GAO, at 29 (June 2007), available at:  
<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d07737.pdf> (last accessed January 21, 2022).



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1 than identity theft involving banking and finance, the government and the military,  
2 or education.<sup>20</sup>

3 85. “Medical identity theft is a growing and dangerous crime that leaves  
4 their victims with little to no recourse for recovery,” reported Pam Dixon, Executive  
5 Director of World Privacy Forum. “Victims often experience financial repercussions  
6 and worse yet, they frequently discover erroneous information has been added to  
7 their personal medical files due to the thief’s activities.”<sup>21</sup>

8 86. If cyber criminals manage to access financial information, health  
9 insurance information and other personally sensitive data—as they did here—there  
10 is no limit to the amount of fraud to which Defendants may have exposed  
11 Representative Plaintiff and Class Members.

12 87. A study by Experian found that the average total cost of medical  
13 identity theft is “about \$20,000” per incident, and that a majority of victims of  
14 medical identity theft were forced to pay out-of-pocket costs for healthcare they did  
15 not receive in order to restore coverage.<sup>22</sup> Almost half of medical identity theft  
16 victims lose their healthcare coverage as a result of the incident, while nearly one-  
17 third saw their insurance premiums rise, and forty percent were never able to resolve  
18 their identity theft at all.<sup>23</sup>

19 88. And data breaches are preventable.<sup>24</sup> As Lucy Thompson wrote in the  
20 DATA BREACH AND ENCRYPTION HANDBOOK, “[i]n almost all cases, the data

21  
22 <sup>20</sup> Michael Olloye, “The Rise of Medical Identity Theft in Healthcare,” Kaiser  
23 Health News, Feb. 7, 2014, <https://khn.org/news/rise-of-identity-theft/> (last  
accessed January 21, 2022).

24 <sup>21</sup> *Id.*

25 <sup>22</sup> See Elinor Mills, “Study: Medical Identity Theft is Costly for Victims,” CNET  
26 (Mar. 3, 2010), [https://www.cnet.com/news/study-medical-identity-theft-is-costly-  
for-victims/](https://www.cnet.com/news/study-medical-identity-theft-is-costly-for-victims/) (last accessed January 21, 2022).

27 <sup>23</sup> *Id.*; see also Healthcare Data Breach: What to Know About them and What to  
28 Do After One, EXPERIAN, [https://www.experian.com/blogs/ask-  
experian/healthcare-data-breach-what-to-know-about-them-and-what-to-do-after-  
one/](https://www.experian.com/blogs/ask-experian/healthcare-data-breach-what-to-know-about-them-and-what-to-do-after-one/) (last accessed January 21, 2022).

<sup>24</sup> Lucy L. Thompson, “Despite the Alarming Trends, Data Breaches Are  
Preventable,” in DATA BREACH AND ENCRYPTION HANDBOOK (Lucy Thompson,  
ed., 2012)



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1 breaches that occurred could have been prevented by proper planning and the correct  
2 design and implementation of appropriate security solutions.”<sup>25</sup> She added that  
3 “[o]rganizations that collect, use, store, and share sensitive personal data must accept  
4 responsibility for protecting the information and ensuring that it is not compromised  
5 . . . .”<sup>26</sup>

6 89. Most of the reported data breaches are a result of lax security and the  
7 failure to create or enforce appropriate security policies, rules, and procedures ...  
8 Appropriate information security controls, including encryption, must be  
9 implemented and enforced in a rigorous and disciplined manner so that a *data breach*  
10 *never occurs*.”<sup>27</sup>

11 90. Here, Defendants knew of the importance of safeguarding PHI/PII and  
12 financial information and of the foreseeable consequences that would occur if  
13 Representative Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ PHI/PII and financial information  
14 was stolen, including the significant costs that would be placed on Representative  
15 Plaintiff and Class Members as a result of a breach of this magnitude. Defendants  
16 knew, or should have known, that the development and use of such protocols were  
17 necessary to fulfill their statutory and common law duties to Representative Plaintiff  
18 and Class Members. Their failure to do so is, therefore, intentional, willful, reckless,  
19 and/or grossly negligent.

20 91. Defendants disregarded the rights of Representative Plaintiff and Class  
21 Members by, *inter alia*, (i) intentionally, willfully, recklessly, or negligently failing  
22 to take adequate and reasonable measures to ensure that their network servers were  
23 protected against unauthorized intrusions; (ii) failing to disclose that they did not  
24 have adequately robust security protocols and training practices in place to  
25 adequately safeguard Representative Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ PHI/PII and/or  
26 financial information; (iii) failing to take standard and reasonably available steps to

27 <sup>25</sup> *Id.* at 17.

28 <sup>26</sup> *Id.* at 28.

<sup>27</sup> *Id.*

1 prevent the Data Breach; (iv) concealing the existence and extent of the Data Breach  
2 for an unreasonable duration of time; and (v) failing to provide Representative  
3 Plaintiff and Class Members prompt and accurate notice of the Data Breach.

4  
5 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
6 **Negligence**  
7 **(On behalf of the Nationwide Class)**

8 92. Each and every allegation of the preceding paragraphs is incorporated  
9 in this cause of action with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

10 93. At all times herein relevant, Defendants owed Representative Plaintiff  
11 and Class Members a duty of care, *inter alia*, to act with reasonable care to secure  
12 and safeguard their PHI/PII and financial information and to use commercially  
13 reasonable methods to do so. Defendants took on this obligation upon accepting and  
14 storing the PHI/PII and financial information of Representative Plaintiff and Class  
15 Members in their computer systems and on their networks.

16 94. Among these duties, Defendants were expected:

- 17 a. to exercise reasonable care in obtaining, retaining, securing,  
18 safeguarding, deleting, and protecting the PHI/PII and financial  
19 information in their possession;  
20 b. to protect Representative Plaintiff's and Class Members' PHI/PII  
21 and financial information using reasonable and adequate security  
22 procedures and systems that were/are compliant with industry-  
23 standard practices;  
24 c. to implement processes to quickly detect the Data Breach and to  
25 timely act on warnings about data breaches; and  
26 d. to promptly notify Representative Plaintiff and Class Members  
27 of any data breach, security incident, or intrusion that affected or  
28 may have affected their PHI/PII and financial information.

95. Defendants knew that the PHI/PII and financial information was private  
and confidential and should be protected as private and confidential and, thus,  
Defendants owed a duty of care not to subject Representative Plaintiff and Class

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1 Members to an unreasonable risk of harm because they were foreseeable and  
2 probable victims of any inadequate security practices.

3 96. Defendants knew, or should have known, of the risks inherent in  
4 collecting and storing PHI/PII and financial information, the vulnerabilities of their  
5 data security systems, and the importance of adequate security. Defendants knew  
6 about numerous, well-publicized data breaches.

7 97. Defendants knew, or should have known, that their data systems and  
8 networks did not adequately safeguard Representative Plaintiff's and Class  
9 Members' PHI/PII and financial information.

10 98. Defendants were in the exclusive position to ensure that their systems  
11 and protocols were sufficient to protect the PHI/PII and financial information that  
12 Representative Plaintiff and Class Members had entrusted to them.

13 99. Defendants breached their duties to Representative Plaintiff and Class  
14 Members by failing to provide fair, reasonable, or adequate computer systems and  
15 data security practices to safeguard the PHI/PII and financial information of  
16 Representative Plaintiff and Class Members.

17 100. Because Defendants knew that a breach of their systems could damage  
18 thousands of individuals, including Representative Plaintiff and Class Members,  
19 Defendants had a duty to adequately protect their data systems and the PHI/PII and  
20 financial information contained thereon.

21 101. Representative Plaintiff's and Class Members' willingness to entrust  
22 Defendants with their PHI/PII and financial information was predicated on the  
23 understanding that Defendants would take adequate security precautions. Moreover,  
24 only Defendants had the ability to protect their systems and the PHI/PII and financial  
25 information they stored on them from attack. Thus, Defendants had a special  
26 relationship with Representative Plaintiff and Class Members.

27 102. Defendants also had independent duties under state and federal laws  
28 that required Defendants to reasonably safeguard Representative Plaintiff's and

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1 Class Members' PHI/PII and financial information and promptly notify them about  
2 the Data Breach. These "independent duties" are untethered to any contract between  
3 Defendants and Representative Plaintiff and/or the remaining Class Members.

4 103. Defendants breached their general duty of care to Representative  
5 Plaintiff and Class Members in, but not necessarily limited to, the following ways:

- 6 a. by failing to provide fair, reasonable, or adequate computer  
7 systems and data security practices to safeguard the PHI/PII and  
8 financial information of Representative Plaintiff and Class  
9 Members;
- 10 b. by failing to timely and accurately disclose that Representative  
11 Plaintiff's and Class Members' PHI/PII and financial  
12 information had been improperly acquired or accessed;
- 13 c. by failing to adequately protect and safeguard the PHI/PII and  
14 financial information by knowingly disregarding standard  
15 information security principles, despite obvious risks, and by  
16 allowing unmonitored and unrestricted access to unsecured  
17 PHI/PII and financial information;
- 18 d. by failing to provide adequate supervision and oversight of the  
19 PHI/PII and financial information with which they were and are  
20 entrusted, in spite of the known risk and foreseeable likelihood  
21 of breach and misuse, which permitted an unknown third party  
22 to gather PHI/PII and financial information of Representative  
23 Plaintiff and Class Members, misuse the PHI/PII, and  
24 intentionally disclose it to others without consent.
- 25 e. by failing to adequately train their employees to not store PHI/PII  
26 and financial information longer than absolutely necessary;
- 27 f. by failing to consistently enforce security policies aimed at  
28 protecting Representative Plaintiff's and the Class Members'  
PHI/PII and financial information;
- g. by failing to implement processes to quickly detect data  
breaches, security incidents, or intrusions; and
- h. by failing to encrypt Representative Plaintiff's and Class  
Members' PHI/PII and financial information and monitor user  
behavior and activity in order to identify possible threats.

104. Defendants' willful failure to abide by these duties was wrongful,  
reckless, and grossly negligent in light of the foreseeable risks and known threats.

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1 105. As a proximate and foreseeable result of Defendants' grossly negligent  
2 conduct, Representative Plaintiff and Class Members have suffered damages and are  
3 at imminent risk of additional harms and damages (as alleged above).

4 106. The law further imposes an affirmative duty on Defendants to timely  
5 disclose the unauthorized access and theft of the PHI/PII and financial information  
6 to Representative Plaintiff and Class Members so that they could and/or still can take  
7 appropriate measures to mitigate damages, protect against adverse consequences,  
8 and thwart future misuse of their PHI/PII and financial information.

9 107. Defendants breached their duty to notify Representative Plaintiff and  
10 Class Members of the unauthorized access by waiting months after learning of the  
11 Data Breach to notify Representative Plaintiff and Class Members and then by  
12 failing and continuing to fail to provide Representative Plaintiff and Class Members  
13 sufficient information regarding the breach. To date, Defendants have not provided  
14 sufficient information to Representative Plaintiff and Class Members regarding the  
15 extent of the unauthorized access and continue to breach their disclosure obligations  
16 to Representative Plaintiff and Class Members.

17 108. Further, through their failure to provide timely and clear notification of  
18 the Data Breach to Representative Plaintiff and Class Members, Defendants  
19 prevented Representative Plaintiff and Class Members from taking meaningful,  
20 proactive steps to secure their PHI/PII and financial information, and to access their  
21 medical records and histories.

22 109. There is a close causal connection between Defendants' failure to  
23 implement security measures to protect the PHI/PII and financial information of  
24 Representative Plaintiff and Class Members and the harm suffered, or risk of  
25 imminent harm suffered by Representative Plaintiff and Class Members.  
26 Representative Plaintiff's and Class Members' PHI/PII and financial information  
27 was accessed as the proximate result of Defendants' failure to exercise reasonable  
28

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1 care in safeguarding such PHI/PII and financial information by adopting,  
2 implementing, and maintaining appropriate security measures.

3 110. Defendants' wrongful actions, inactions, and omissions constituted  
4 (and continue to constitute) common law negligence.

5 111. The damages Representative Plaintiff and Class Members have  
6 suffered (as alleged above) and will suffer were and are the direct and proximate  
7 result of Defendants' grossly negligent conduct.

8 112. Additionally, 15 U.S.C. § 45 (FTC Act, Section 5) prohibits "unfair . .  
9 . practices in or affecting commerce," including, as interpreted and enforced by the  
10 FTC, the unfair act or practice by businesses, such as Defendant, of failing to use  
11 reasonable measures to protect PHI/PII and financial information. The FTC  
12 publications and orders described above also form part of the basis of Defendants'  
13 duty in this regard.

14 113. Defendants violated 15 U.S.C. § 45 by failing to use reasonable  
15 measures to protect PHI/PII and financial information and not complying with  
16 applicable industry standards, as described in detail herein. Defendants' conduct was  
17 particularly unreasonable given the nature and amount of PHI/PII and financial  
18 information it obtained and stored and the foreseeable consequences of the immense  
19 damages that would result to Representative Plaintiff and Class Members.

20 114. Defendants' violation of 15 U.S.C. § 45 constitutes negligence *per se*.  
21 Defendants also violated the HIPAA Privacy and Security rules which, likewise,  
22 constitutes negligence *per se*.

23 115. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' negligence and  
24 negligence *per se*, Representative Plaintiff and Class Members have suffered and  
25 will suffer injury, including but not limited to: (i) actual identity theft; (ii) the loss  
26 of the opportunity of how their PHI/PII and financial information is used; (iii) the  
27 compromise, publication, and/or theft of their PHI/PII and financial information; (iv)  
28 out-of-pocket expenses associated with the prevention, detection, and recovery from



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1 identity theft, tax fraud, and/or unauthorized use of their PHI/PII and financial  
2 information; (v) lost opportunity costs associated with effort expended and the loss  
3 of productivity addressing and attempting to mitigate the actual and future  
4 consequences of the Data Breach, including but not limited to, efforts spent  
5 researching how to prevent, detect, contest, and recover from embarrassment and  
6 identity theft; (vi) lost continuity in relation to their healthcare; (vii) the continued  
7 risk to their PHI/PII and financial information, which may remain in Defendants'  
8 possession and is subject to further unauthorized disclosures so long as Defendants  
9 fail to undertake appropriate and adequate measures to protect Representative  
10 Plaintiff's and Class Members' PHI/PII and financial information in their continued  
11 possession; and (viii) future costs in terms of time, effort, and money that will be  
12 expended to prevent, detect, contest, and repair the impact of the PHI/PII and  
13 financial information compromised as a result of the Data Breach for the remainder  
14 of the lives of Representative Plaintiff and Class Members.

15 116. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' negligence and  
16 negligence *per se*, Representative Plaintiff and Class Members have suffered and  
17 will continue to suffer other forms of injury and/or harm, including, but not limited  
18 to, anxiety, emotional distress, loss of privacy, and other economic and non-  
19 economic losses.

20 117. Additionally, as a direct and proximate result of Defendants'  
21 negligence and negligence *per se*, Representative Plaintiff and Class Members have  
22 suffered and will suffer the continued risks of exposure of their PHI/PII and financial  
23 information, which remain in Defendants' possession and are subject to further  
24 unauthorized disclosures, so long as Defendants fail to undertake appropriate and  
25 adequate measures to protect the PHI/PII and financial information in their  
26 continued possession.  
27  
28



**SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**Confidentiality of Medical Information Act**  
**(Cal. Civ. Code §56, *et seq.*)**  
**(On behalf of the California Subclass)**

118. Each and every allegation of the preceding paragraphs is incorporated in this cause of action with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

119. Under California Civil Code § 56.06, Defendants are deemed a “provider of health care, health care service plan, or contractor” and are, therefore, subject to the CMIA, California Civil Code §§ 56.10(a), (d) (e), 56.36(b), 56.101(a) and (b).

120. Under the CMIA, California Civil Code §56.05(k), Representative Plaintiff and California Subclass Members (except employees of Defendants whose records may have been accessed) are deemed “patients.”

121. As defined in the CMIA, California Civil Code § 56.05(j), Defendants disclosed “medical information” to unauthorized persons without obtaining consent, in violation of § 56.10(a). Defendants’ misconduct, including failure to adequately detect, protect, and prevent unauthorized disclosure, directly resulted in the unauthorized disclosure of Representative Plaintiff’s and California Subclass Members’ PHI/PII and financial information to unauthorized persons.

122. Defendants’ misconduct, including protecting and preserving the confidential integrity of their patients’/customers’ PHI/PII and financial information, resulted in unauthorized disclosure of sensitive and confidential PII that belongs to Representative Plaintiff and California Subclass Members to unauthorized persons, breaching the confidentiality of that information, thereby violating California Civil Code §§ 56.06 and 56.101(a).

123. As a result of the Data Breach, unauthorized third parties viewed Representative Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ protected medical information.

124. Representative Plaintiff and California Subclass Members have all been and continue to be harmed as a direct, foreseeable, and proximate result of

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1 Defendants' breach because Representative Plaintiff and California Subclass  
2 Members face, now and in the future, an imminent threat of identity theft, fraud, and  
3 for ransom demands. They must now spend time, effort, and money to constantly  
4 monitor their accounts and credit to surveil for any fraudulent activity.

5 125. Representative Plaintiff and California Subclass Members were injured  
6 and have suffered damages, as described above, from Defendants' illegal disclosure  
7 and negligent release of their PHI/PII and financial information in violation of Cal.  
8 Civ. Code §§ 56.10 and 56.101 and, therefore, seek relief under Civ. Code §§ 56.35  
9 and 56.36, including actual damages, nominal statutory damages of \$1,000, punitive  
10 damages of \$3,000, injunctive relief, and attorneys' fees and costs.

11  
12 **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
13 **Breach of Implied Contract**  
14 **(On behalf of the Nationwide Class)**

15 126. Each and every allegation of the preceding paragraphs is incorporated  
16 in this cause of action with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

17 127. Through their course of conduct, Defendants, Representative Plaintiff,  
18 and Class Members entered into implied contracts for Defendants to implement data  
19 security adequate to safeguard and protect the privacy of Representative Plaintiff's  
20 and Class Members' PHI/PII and financial information.

21 128. Defendants required Representative Plaintiff and Class Members to  
22 provide and entrust their PHI/PII and financial information, including medical  
23 information, record or account numbers, names, and dates of birth.

24 129. Defendants solicited and invited Representative Plaintiff and Class  
25 Members to provide their PHI/PII and financial information as part of Defendants'  
26 regular business practices. Representative Plaintiff and Class Members accepted  
27 Defendants' offers and provided their PHI/PII and financial information to  
28 Defendants.

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1           130. As a condition of being direct customers/patients of Defendants,  
2 Representative Plaintiff and Class Members provided and entrusted their PHI/PII  
3 and financial information to Defendants. In so doing, Representative Plaintiff and  
4 Class Members entered into implied contracts with Defendants by which Defendants  
5 agreed to safeguard and protect such non-public information, to keep such  
6 information secure and confidential, and to timely and accurately notify  
7 Representative Plaintiff and Class Members if their data had been breached and  
8 compromised or stolen.

9           131. A meeting of the minds occurred when Representative Plaintiff and  
10 Class Members agreed to, and did, provide their PHI/PII and financial information  
11 to Defendants, in exchange for, amongst other things, the protection of their PHI/PII  
12 and financial information.

13           132. Representative Plaintiff and Class Members fully performed their  
14 obligations under the implied contracts with Defendant.

15           133. Defendants breached the implied contracts they made with  
16 Representative Plaintiff and Class Members by failing to safeguard and protect their  
17 PHI/PII and financial information and by failing to provide timely and accurate  
18 notice to them that their PHI/PII and financial information was compromised as a  
19 result of the Data Breach.

20           134. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' above-described breach  
21 of implied contract, Representative Plaintiff and Class Members have suffered (and  
22 will continue to suffer) (a) ongoing, imminent, and impending threat of identity theft  
23 crimes, fraud, and abuse, resulting in monetary loss and economic harm; (b) actual  
24 identity theft crimes, fraud, and abuse, resulting in monetary loss and economic  
25 harm; (c) loss of the confidentiality of the stolen confidential data; (d) the illegal sale  
26 of the compromised data on the dark web; (e) lost work time; and (f) other economic  
27 and non-economic harm.  
28

**FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**Unfair Business Practices**  
**(Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code, §17200, *et seq.*)**  
**(On behalf of the California Subclass)**

135. Each and every allegation of the preceding paragraphs is incorporated in this cause of action with the same force and effect as though fully set forth herein.

136. Representative Plaintiff and California Subclass Members further bring this cause of action, seeking equitable and statutory relief to stop the misconduct of Defendant, as complained of herein.

137. Defendants have engaged in unfair competition within the meaning of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, because Defendants' conduct is unlawful, unfair, and/or fraudulent, as herein alleged.

138. Representative Plaintiff, the California Subclass Members, and Defendants are each a "person" or "persons" within the meaning of § 17201 of the California Unfair Competition Law ("UCL").

139. The knowing conduct of Defendant, as alleged herein, constitutes an unlawful and/or fraudulent business practice, as set forth in California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200-17208. Specifically, Defendants conducted business activities while failing to comply with the legal mandates cited herein, including HIPAA. Such violations include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- a. failure to maintain adequate computer systems and data security practices to safeguard PHI/PII and financial information;
- b. failure to disclose that their computer systems and data security practices were inadequate to safeguard PHI/PII and financial information from theft;
- c. failure to timely and accurately disclose the Data Breach to Representative Plaintiff and California Subclass Members;
- d. continued acceptance of PHI/PII and financial information and storage of other personal information after Defendants knew or should have known of the security vulnerabilities of the systems that were exploited in the Data Breach; and
- e. continued acceptance of PHI/PII and financial information and storage of other personal information after Defendants knew or

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1 should have known of the Data Breach and before they allegedly  
2 remediated the Data Breach.

3 140. Defendants knew, or should have known, that their computer systems  
4 and data security practices were inadequate to safeguard the PHI/PII and financial  
5 information of Representative Plaintiff and California Subclass Members, deter  
6 hackers, and detect a breach within a reasonable time and that the risk of a data  
7 breach was highly likely.

8 141. In engaging in these unlawful business practices, Defendants have  
9 enjoyed an advantage over their competition and a resultant disadvantage to the  
10 public and California Subclass Members.

11 142. Defendants' knowing failure to adopt policies in accordance with  
12 and/or adhere to these laws, all of which are binding upon and burdensome to  
13 Defendants' competitors, engenders an unfair competitive advantage for Defendant,  
14 thereby constituting an unfair business practice, as set forth in California Business  
15 & Professions Code §§ 17200-17208.

16 143. Defendants have clearly established a policy of accepting a certain  
17 amount of collateral damage, as represented by the damages to Representative  
18 Plaintiff and California Subclass Members herein alleged, as incidental to their  
19 business operations, rather than accept the alternative costs of full compliance with  
20 fair, lawful, and honest business practices ordinarily borne by responsible  
21 competitors of Defendants and as set forth in legislation and the judicial record.

22 144. The UCL is, by their express terms, a cumulative remedy, such that  
23 remedies under their provisions can be awarded in addition to those provided under  
24 separate statutory schemes and/or common law remedies, such as those alleged in  
25 the other causes of action of this Complaint. *See* Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17205.

26 145. Representative Plaintiff and California Subclass Members request that  
27 this Court enter such orders or judgments as may be necessary to enjoin Defendants  
28 from continuing their unfair, unlawful, and/or deceptive practices and to restore to

1 Representative Plaintiff and California Subclass Members any money Defendants  
2 acquired by unfair competition, including restitution and/or equitable relief,  
3 including disgorgement of ill-gotten gains, refunds of moneys, interest, reasonable  
4 attorneys' fees, and the costs of prosecuting this class action, as well as any and all  
5 other relief that may be available at law or equity.

6  
7 **RELIEF SOUGHT**

8 **WHEREFORE**, Representative Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and each  
9 member of the proposed National Class and the California Subclass, respectfully  
10 requests that the Court enter judgment in his favor and for the following specific  
11 relief against Defendants as follows:

12 1. That the Court declare, adjudge, and decree that this action is a proper  
13 class action and certify each of the proposed classes and/or any other appropriate  
14 subclasses under F.R.C.P. Rule 23 (b)(1), (b)(2), and/or (b)(3), including  
15 appointment of Representative Plaintiff's counsel as Class Counsel;

16 2. For an award of damages, including actual, nominal, and consequential  
17 damages, as allowed by law in an amount to be determined;

18 3. That the Court enjoin Defendant, ordering them to cease and desist  
19 from unlawful activities in further violation of California Business and Professions  
20 Code § 17200, *et seq.*;

21 4. For equitable relief enjoining Defendants from engaging in the  
22 wrongful conduct complained of herein pertaining to the misuse and/or disclosure  
23 of Representative Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII/PHI, and from refusing to issue  
24 prompt, complete, any accurate disclosures to Representative Plaintiff and Class  
25 Members;

26 5. For injunctive relief requested by Representative Plaintiff, including  
27 but not limited to, injunctive and other equitable relief as is necessary to protect the  
28

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1 interests of Representative Plaintiff and Class Members, including but not limited to  
2 an Order:

- 3 a. prohibiting Defendants from engaging in the wrongful and  
4 unlawful acts described herein;
- 5 b. requiring Defendants to protect, including through encryption,  
6 all data collected through the course of business in accordance  
7 with all applicable regulations, industry standards, and federal,  
8 state or local laws;
- 9 c. requiring Defendants to delete and purge the PII/PHI of  
10 Representative Plaintiff and Class Members unless Defendants  
11 can provide to the Court reasonable justification for the retention  
12 and use of such information when weighed against the privacy  
13 interests of Representative Plaintiff and Class Members;
- 14 d. requiring Defendants to implement and maintain a  
15 comprehensive Information Security Program designed to  
16 protect the confidentiality and integrity of Representative  
17 Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII/PHI;
- 18 e. requiring Defendants to engage independent third-party security  
19 auditors and internal personnel to run automated security  
20 monitoring, simulated attacks, penetration tests, and audits on  
21 Defendants' systems on a periodic basis;
- 22 f. prohibiting Defendants from maintaining Representative  
23 Plaintiff's and Class Members' PII/PHI on a cloud-based  
24 database;
- 25 g. requiring Defendants to segment data by creating firewalls and  
26 access controls so that, if one area of Defendants' network is  
27 compromised, hackers cannot gain access to other portions of  
28 Defendants' systems;
- h. requiring Defendants to conduct regular database scanning and  
securing checks;
- i. requiring Defendants to establish an information security  
training program that includes at least annual information  
security training for all employees, with additional training to be  
provided as appropriate based upon the employees' respective  
responsibilities with handling PII/PHI, as well as protecting the  
PII/PHI of Representative Plaintiff and Class Members;
- j. requiring Defendants to implement a system of tests to assess  
their respective employees' knowledge of the education  
programs discussed in the preceding subparagraphs, as well as  
randomly and periodically testing employees' compliance with  
Defendants' policies, programs, and systems for protecting  
personal identifying information;



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- 1 k. requiring Defendants to implement, maintain, review, and revise  
2 as necessary a threat management program to appropriately  
3 monitor Defendants' networks for internal and external threats,  
4 and assess whether monitoring tools are properly configured,  
5 tested, and updated;  
6  
7 l. requiring Defendants to meaningfully educate all Class Members  
8 about the threats that they face as a result of the loss of their  
9 confidential personal identifying information to third parties, as  
10 well as the steps affected individuals must take to protect  
11 themselves.  
12  
13 6. For prejudgment interest on all amounts awarded, at the prevailing legal  
14 rate;  
15 7. For an award of attorneys' fees, costs, and litigation expenses, as  
16 allowed by law;  
17 8. For a finding that Defendants Don Lomas and Steve Terui are liable for  
18 the debts and liabilities of Clinivate, LLC.  
19 9. For all other Orders, findings, and determinations identified and sought  
20 in this Complaint.

### **JURY DEMAND**

21 Representative Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of the Plaintiff Class(es)  
22 and/or Subclass(es), hereby demands a trial by jury for all issues triable by jury.

23 Dated: November 23, 2022

**COLE & VAN NOTE**

24 By: /s/ Cody A. Bolce  
25 Cody A. Bolce, Esq.  
26 Attorneys for Representative Plaintiff  
27 and the Plaintiff Classes  
28